

Rec^d & ansd. Sept. 30th

Botanic Garden & Nursery Newburgh 28th Aug. 33.

Dear Sir

I acknowledge with the greatest pleasure
the receipt of your favor of the 22^d. and cannot ^{express} my
gratification at the commencement of a correspondence
with one who holds ^{such a} prominent place among the friends of
science in America. — — —

The information with regard to the Dionaea that you was
so kind as to communicate I shall take immediate advantage
of as we are anxious to obtain a considerable supply. The treatise
on the plant you are so good as to offer I shall be very much
pleased to see — McNab is as you say a distinguished cultivator —
his treatise is spoken very highly of by the European peri-
odicals and I believe no copies have yet reached this country.

Speaking of books I take the opportunity to say that nothing
could afford me greater gratification than to look over
your Botanical library & herbarium — Foreign Botanical lit-
erature is ^{so} comparatively scarce in this country that I feel it
quite a feast to meet with a good collection. We are anxious
to open a correspondence & exchange with some first-rate Botanic garden
in Europe. — perhaps with Dr. Graham the celebrated ^{professor} at Edinburgh

whom you spoke so highly of. I think we can yet send over some
species of indigenous plants that will ~~be~~ interesting. It is so difficult to
keep many of our American plants particularly Orchidea that they
are often lost in European Botanic Gardens & their stock requires replenishing
Perhaps if it will not be presuming too much I may trouble you
hereafter for an introduction. — — — We should be much pleased
to become acquainted with some scientific gentleman in the Southern
States who could furnish us with an annual supply of seeds of
the follg. sp. of Magnolias. — *M. Cordata* — *macrophylla*. *grandiflora*
uniriculata — any or all of them. If you should meet with any one
of this description please recollect us.

In conclusion I have the honor to subscribe myself

Very sincerely
Yours.

Andrew. J. Downing

Am^d. March 18th

} Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh - 11th March. 34

My dear Sir,

Absence from home when your last kind favor came to hand must be my apology for not answering it before. The introductory letter you was so good as to send me I forwarded with an accompanying one of my own to Doct. Graham in the first Scotch packet. I receive with a great deal of pleasure your offer to assist us in an acquaintance with the Secretaries of the London Hort. Soc. It is an ~~institute~~ ^{institution} ~~with~~ ^{which} of all others we are desirous of cultivating a correspondence as from the fine collection they have amassed at Chiswick they are able if so disposed to contribute many things which cannot be obtained from other sources. The Garden of the Society (we have ~~their~~ ^{their} fruit catalogue) contains the best collections I prize in the world & my ~~brother~~ ^{brother} is particularly anxious next winter to have some grafts from them. Douglass' collection of North-West plants &c as you know also make their first appearance in the Garden of the Society. If you are writing to Prof. Lindley or Mr. Bentham have the kindness to recollect us. & I should be very happy to enter into a direct correspondence with these gentlemen. It is very likely that I may be able to do them some service in a Horticultural way. You speak of your intention of spending the summer at Princeton — it is probable that I may hereafter trouble

you with some few notes of desiderata from the barrens.

Apropos of Dr Gray. Tell him to send 2 copies of the \$5 edition (printed title page index &c) to the Steam-boat Providence port of Warren, R.I. on or before Saturday afternoon next when she leaves for Newburgh. — I have instructed the Capt. to pay the amount which he will ^{please} tell the bearer to ask for. I am delighted to see a regular illustrative work on these difficult natural orders & I hope to dispose of some more copies for Dr Gray when I shall begin to see more of my botanical friends ~~was~~ the spring opens. If Dr Gray would have the goodness to recollect me in the way of seeds, living-plants &c when on his southern tour I should be very grateful.

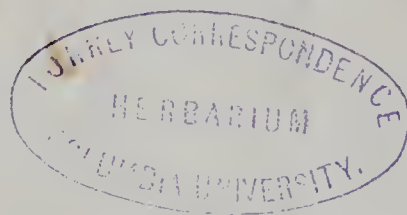
Mr Nuttall's intended journey was really news to me — I suppose he will make a pretty thorough investigation of our rich western regions. Do you know whether he is still connected with the Cambridge (Mass) Botanic garden & chair? Has Prof. Lindley's "Introduction to Botany" published last year found its way to this country yet? It is spoken so highly of as an elementary work that I am rather anxious to see it.

I have just received a lot of Lianas &c from Dr McRea of Wilmington for whom acquaintance I feel also obliged to ^{you}

You speak of Mrs. Torrey's desire to have a few plants for
her flower stand in the parlor — I suppose of course you
refer to green-house plants — Our collection in this department
is ~~not~~ so much in its infancy that we have published no catalog^{ue}
as yet. If there are no particular species which Mrs. T. would
desire I should be pleased to send down by an Newburgh boat
a few which would be ornamental this spring — as to prices
we can talk about that when next I see you.
I shall be pleased to hear from you the first interval of leisure.

Very sincerely yours.

A. J. Downing



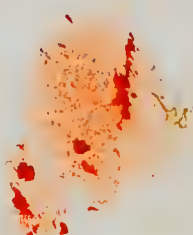
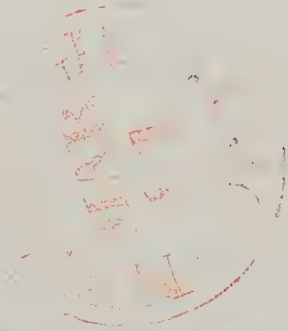
to
M.

PAID 76

Dr. L. Jorey
Professor of Chemistry & Botany.

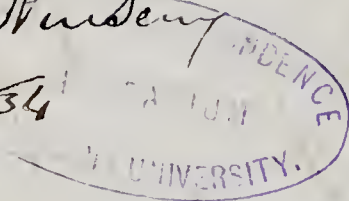
30 Mc Dougall St.

New-York



and. verbally

Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh 21. April 34



Dear Sir

In the last letter which I had the pleasure of receiving from you, you expressed a probability of being in this neighbourhood in the course of 2 or 3 weeks in which case you would call on me. Thinking to see you in person I have until this time delayed answering your query concerning the correspondence with the Secretaries of the Lond. Nat Soc. You ask me which of the two gentlemen Prof Lindley or Mr Bentham I should prefer corresponding with. The fact is it would make no difference to us in any other way than that we ^{would} be pleased to communicate with that one who will from leisure, interest in the cause &c be most likely to facilitate our & his own views. Perhaps you from acquaintance with these gentlemen can decide better than we are able to do. It is now too late in

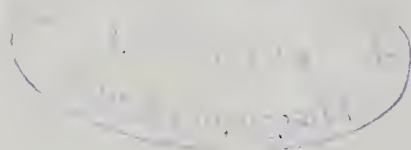
the season for us to forward any thing either in the
shape of trees or herbaceous plants to Europe this
Spring but if we could through an early correspondence
be made acquainted with their desiderata we might
probably as you are aware have a considerable ^{quantity} that
would be acceptable ready for exportation early in the
autumn. We are certain that we have some
varieties of fruit in the nursery that would be highly
acceptable to the Society. I shall therefore be much
pleased to open a correspondence in the way and at the
time you think proper & when it meets your leisure
to prepare the introductory letter &c.

Please recollect the two copies of Dr Gray's work
that I engaged in my last & send them in the
manner there directed or by any other method you
choose. I should be pleased to have them as soon
as is convenient. Allow me to ask has the Lyceum
designated a naturalist to accompany the western

expedition yet. If he should be a person so disposed
he might ~~make~~ a most interesting collection of seeds
& living plants for botanic gardens — I think
that this latter circumstance has been by far too
much neglected by our travelling botanists & nat-
-uralists. — Please write me when you have a
few leisure moments to spare & allow me to thank
you for the many favors I have already received from
you. —
Most truly yours.

A. J. Downing

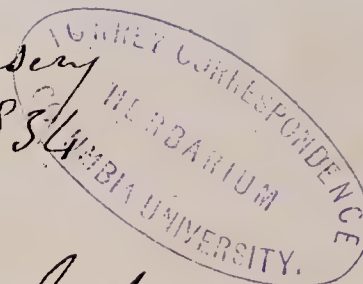
... Do you leave New York with your family this
summer?



PAID 76
Doct^r L. J. Jorrey
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
No. 30 McDougal St
New York

And. as Pruselan
July 17th

} Botanic Garden & Museum
} Newburgh .. 9th June 1834



My dear Sir

Allow me to enquire of you whether or not you know any thing of the Sarcocolla heterophylla which Eaton speaks of in his Manual. If as he says it is really a distinct species I am anxious to procure it. (Do you know any other locality than the one he mentions (Northampton. Mass.)? or Can you direct me to any person in that place of whom I could procure it?

If you see or are writing to Dr. Gray you will oblige me greatly by reminding him of my 2 copies of his (Gramineae et Cyperaceae) which I engaged of him. They would really be an acquisition to me at this present moment.

I hope you received the little box of plants I sent down to you the day you was here. If the Escholtzia californica which it contained did not grow I can furnish you with plenty of young seedling plants now. It is such an interesting plant to the Natural System Student that I presume you will cultivate it by all means.

Whenever you think proper to prepare the way between the Hort. Society
& myself I am ready. I intend to send you a bouquet of our
beautiful collection of Roses to exhibit to Mrs. T. as soon as
they are fully in bloom which will probably be the latter part of
the week. Excuse this hasty scrawl

Very sincerely yours

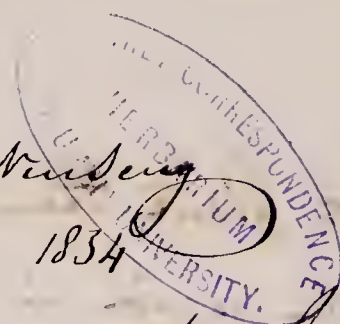
A. L. Downing

P.S. Would it be asking too great a favor of you to ~~request~~
request you to send Hookers Bot. Miscellany (which you had the
kindness to promise to loan me) on board the Newburgh Steamboat
Providence on Wednesday next? I shall probably give you a
hasty call in the course of 10 or 12 days when I could return it.

And. Scht. 1st-

Recd. Aug 1. 39. - with a basket of fruit.

Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh 28th July 1834



Dear Sir

I acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of yours
of day before yesterday — The parcel you were so kind as
to send me via ~~Thornburn~~ ^{Thornburn} came all safe & in good time
but I was then absent for a couple of days at Goshen &
Montgomery in this County and had not therefore the pleasure
of writing you immediately as I should have done. I was
however upon the point of doing so yesterday when I received
yours last — but upon the receipt of it concluded that I
might defer doing so until to day when I might at the same
time forward the accompanying basket which I hope you will
gratify me by accepting. . . I confess the little note which you
last enclosed was really quite a relief — for I was much puzzled
& without amused at the package of seeds (for which by the way
allow me most sincerely to thank you) you sent me at first. I
was quite puzzled inasmuch as they were neither labelled nor
accompanied by an explanation from you — I quite amused by
the singular manner in which they had been put up. After
much conjecture however I concluded that you must have
enclosed them in my package by mistake & was heartily glad
to find that it turns out to be such an excellent collection.
I shall immediately put them up in fresh papers & pack them
away from the air until next spring as it is now too

late to plant them this season. When ~~when~~ they gather? Judging from the region in which they were collected I anticipate not only a good many interesting sp. not known in our gardens but also several that will be new to the botanist. I am most happy to receive the ~~first~~ proof that I am to be your gardener. I feel very sure that our botanists would find it to their advantage to pay more attention to the introduction & dissemination of the seeds of rare & interesting sp. as well as to confine their attention to dried specimens alone. It is as you are aware owing the attention to this circumstance by the botanists of Europe that their bot. gardens are so rich. Witness the Asiatic collection of seeds sent to England within 2 or 3 years past by Dr Wallich of Calcutta. When this is the case instead of a few inferior specimens in the herbaria of a botanist here & there good specimens might always be obtained from the botanic gardens of our own country & neighborhood. Excuse this little digression but I have thought that ^{you might} sometimes impress it upon the memory of some of your many botanical friends.

You mention that you expected a call from me on hearing that I was in town from Mr. Hogg. It was my brother whom he saw as I have not been down since I called at your house myself.

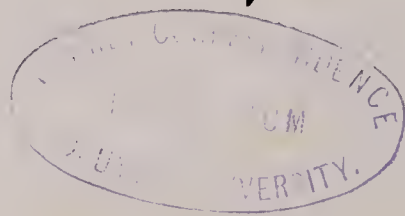
The letters to Prof. Lindley & Mr. Le Conte I have many thanks

to you for your kindness in furnishing them) made use of.

You can form no idea unless you have lately been out of town how very dry the country is at present — our smaller plants are suffering quite severely although we are watering such as feel it most sensibly. Among the farmer's complaints are making respecting the pasture fields & the crop of corn it is feared will be small & potatoes very scarce & all & poor. I understand you have had more rain lately in N. York.

— I am sorry to have given you so much trouble about the Bot. Miscellany. Do not put yourself to any inconvenience respecting it only I should be ^{much} pleased to peruse it when you can conveniently put it in my power. The botanical trade Mr. Austin says I have been much delighted with & return them to day. The difficulty of getting hold of any thing of the kind out of the City makes the appetite very keen & I am always most thankful for anything to devour. I shall hold myself in readiness to accompany you to N. Jersey but venture to hope for the benefit of my own engagements that Dr. Gray will not be ready before the middle of September.

Most truly yours
A. J. Downing



Dr. John Torrey
Professor of Chemistry Y. P. S. Lang
30 McDougal St.
New York

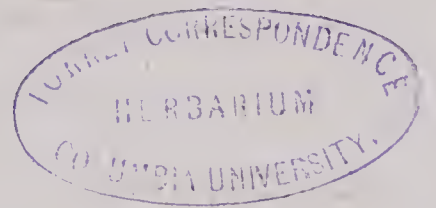


P.S. There is a curious thing mentioned in one of our late foreign Horticultural Magazine. It is the cultivation of plants in close glazed boxes without the admission of air or supply of water, as practised by a gentleman ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ London with much success. The lower part of the box is made water tight & the upper part is a glazed lid which may be taken off. The lower part is filled with a mixture of stones, moss, & soil & the seeds or plants are properly sowed or planted after which the contents are copiously watered the superfluous part of which is drained off by a plug in the bottom. — This plug is then closed & the glazed lid is firmly put on & the box receives no water for several months and in the case of some sp. for a year or more. The only admission of air which is given is caused by the change of temperature forcing out & drawing in fresh supplies. Upwards of 40 species of ferns have been beautifully grown in this way & the idea has occurred to me that you might have a pretty & most curious rock-work in miniature in this way: the small & nicely assorted pieces of rock interspersed with soil being in the first place disposed in a moderately large box & the seeds of some of the most beautiful ferns planted among them.

I think we must collect some seeds of fern when
we make our excursion & I must endeavor to manag^{-care}
the box of rockwork for you this winter. It would really
be a curious affair to show your city friends.

I think of going up to Hyde Park for half a
day some time in the course of next week. Do
you know Dr Hosack sufficiently well to give me
a mere note of introduction to him? I am anxious to
get a moment's peep at a book or two he has in his
library. (His gardener exchanged such plants as
we wished from his collection last spring - so that
I wish for nothing in that way) If so & it is convenient
enclose me a note for that purpose in the course of 2 or 3
days - but do not take a moment of your valuable time
for that purpose.

A. J. D.



Recd? Sept. 10th and

Dear Sir

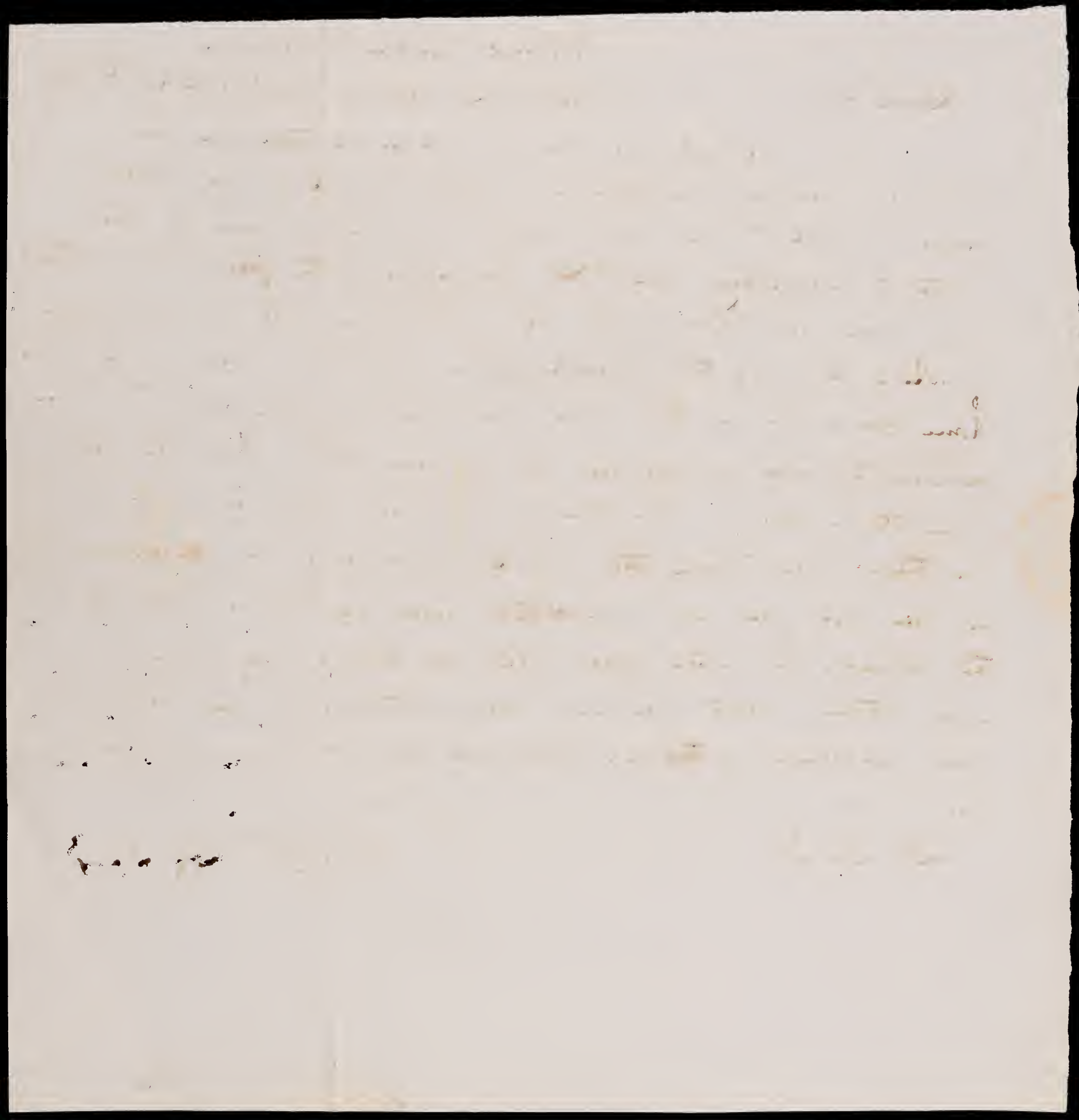
} Botanic Garden & Nursery
} Netherfield. Monday May. 15th Sept 1834

I received your note from Mattheawan this morning and it is a source of much regret to me that I have to write to you now instead of coming down by the boat to accompany you & Dr Gray. One of the family (my Mother) was taken quite dangerously ill on Friday last in consequence of which it is at this moment quite impossible for me to leave home for a day or two more. As however the symptoms are somewhat more encouraging this morning it is probable that I might be able if you think of staying long in N. J. to join you there some time this week. Or perhaps as you intimated in your note you may not start immediately on account of the cholera. In either case will you oblige me soon by a note stating what you are doing either from the pines or your residence in town. I am quite disappointed in not joining you to day.

Dr Jones}

Very sincerely

A. J. Downing



Recd Nov. 14/45

Ans. Dec. 25 1834

Botanic Garden of Nursery
Newburgh 13. Nov. 1834.

My Dear Sir

My close engagements in the hurry
of business at this season have wholly prevented me from
writing to you until this moment. The barrel of earth which
I sent you shortly after you was here I never heard
any receipt of, but hope that it arrived safely to
your hands. If you get your rockwork in a state of forwardness
by spring have the kindness to inform me & I shall be
most happy to give you a few plants suitable for
its decoration. — — — — — You would oblige me exceedingly

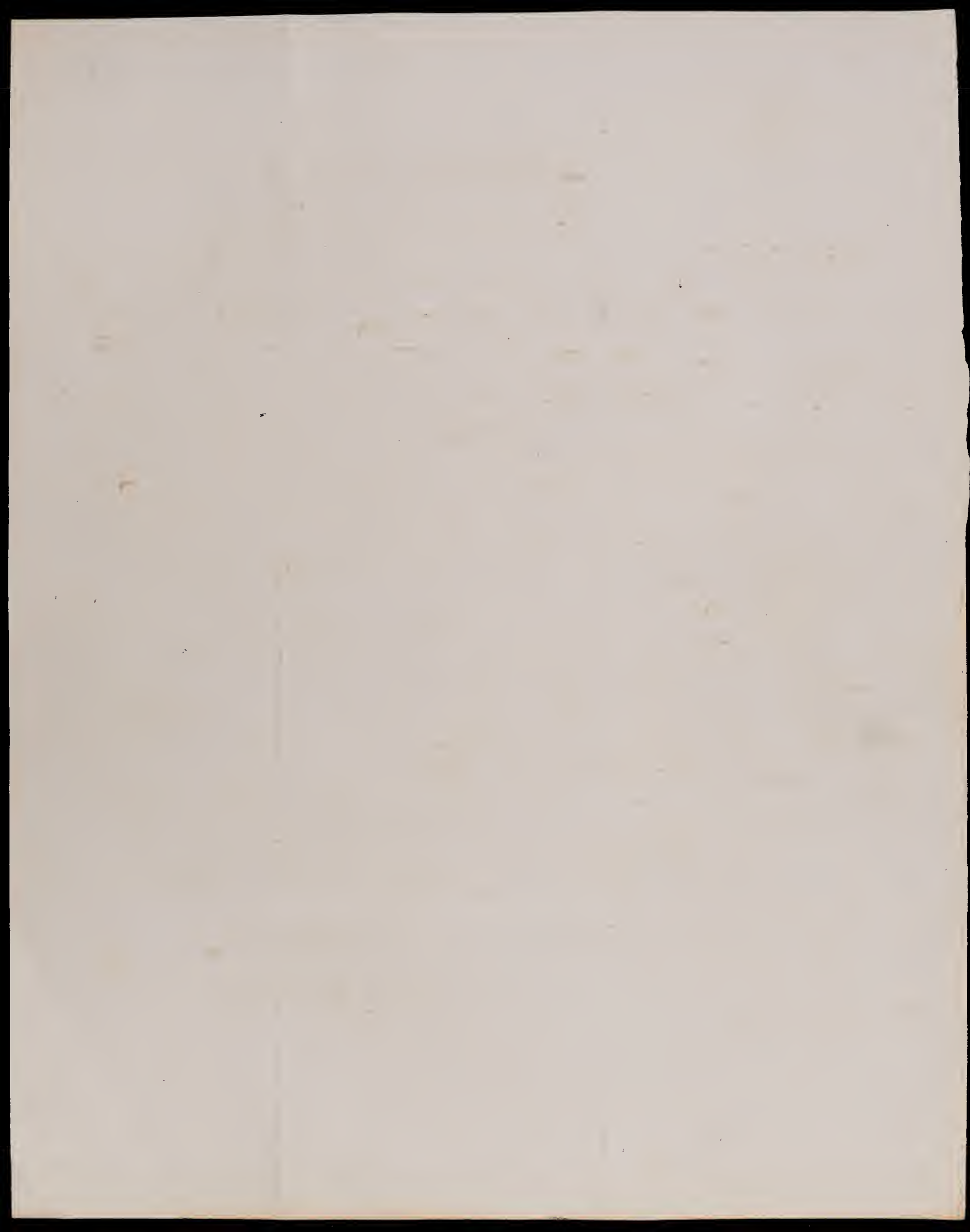
if at some moment of leisure you would trouble yourself
to send a few no's of the *flora borealis* we were speaking
of on board of the Steamboat Providence foot of Warren St.

— I have the pleasure of sending you by that boat this
evening a few plants (hardy herbaceous) which I hope will add
to the embellishment of your little garden. Have the kindness
to excuse my want of time —

Very sincerely

A. J. Downing

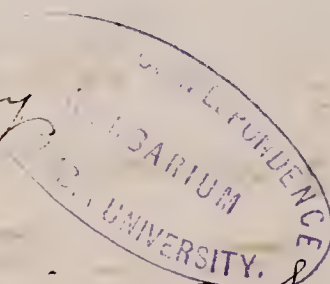
Doct. Torrey.



Recd. Jan. 5th 1835

Ans. Jan. 15th

{ Botanic Garden & Nursery
{ Newburgh Dec. 29. 1834.



Dear Sir

I was very much gratified to receive yours of the 25th through Mr Leonard. Dr Lindley's Pamphlet on fruit trees which accompanied it is to us very interesting. — You will please accept my hearty thanks for the package of seeds which you have again been so kind as to send me. I was delighted to find among ^{them} the Peritomas & other fine things collected by Capt. Wyth. — The curious mélange of Mr Bull's are all safely planted & from the fresh & sound appearance of the Majority of them I flatter myself that a very considerable portion of them will germinate in the Spring.

I am sorry to learn that the small box of plants which I sent you were injured by delay. — The accident would not have occurred but for the illness & consequent absence from the boat of the Captain — as he always pays particular attention to the delivery of our things in town. We have sent over among our importation list for a considerable number of dwarf & Alpine plants particularly adapted to Rock work which I hope will arrive safely as I have a great passion for them & hope to introduce them into more general use.


I have noticed the publication of the 'Garden Botany' by Prof. Lindley & am very glad to hear that you mean to introduce it into use here. I have never been able to get a sight

of his "Introduction to Botany" published a year or two since
& spoken of so highly. Is it to be found in any of the
Stores in Town or have you a copy in your possession?
I shall feel obliged to you for an answer to this query
when you trouble yourself to write me again.

I am exceedingly pleased to hear of Dr Gray's forthcoming
papers. If he takes his usual tour next season I
hope that he will find a corner in ^{his} pocket to lay away
occasionally a stray seed. — Bulbs of the *Trillium* which
he mentioned to me as growing near ~~Utica~~ ^{Utica} would be
to us highly acceptable. — Writing of plants — have
you ever seen any specimens of *Torreyia* vel *Bastonia ornata*
growing? I have heard of one or two living plants in Mr
Nuttall's garden at Cambridge. So beautiful a plant is
surely worth some trouble in procuring. If you should ever
meet with any seeds I hope you will secure them.

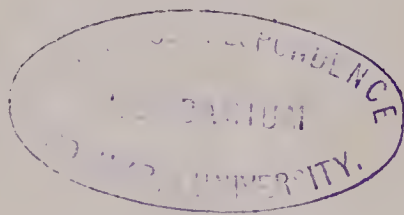
Mr Coon of Florida seems to be in a most excellent
botanical neighborhood & I have hopes that he will
favor you with some seeds & plants as well as dried
specimens.

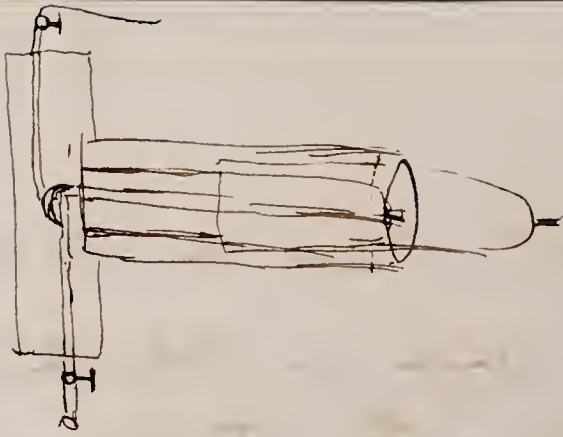
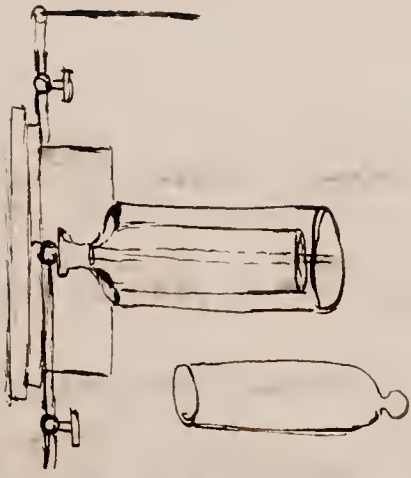
Remain dear Sir my truly yours

A. J. Downing


Dr. J. I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from Prof. Lindley
in which he states the perfect willingness of the Hort. Soc to
send us the articles we wish & mentions some American plants
as desiderata which I shall be happy to supply. Prof. Lindley
states that he is anxious to propose me as a corresponding Member
of the Hort Society & request "a recommending certificate from Dr
Torrey" such being the usual form before Foreign Members can
be ballotted for. It is perhaps hardly necessary for me to say
that I should be much pleased to become a member. Perhaps
you will oblige me by forwarding me a note containing the
half dozen necessary words or if you write soon to Mr Lindley
recollect it in your letter

A. J. D.





Dr. John. Torrey

Prof. of Chemistry. & Botany

No. 30 Mc Dougall St

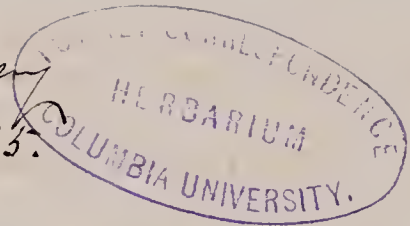
New York



recd March 7th

and March 19th

Botanic Garden & Museum
Newburgh 4th March. 1833.



Dear Sir The two copies of Dr Gray's work on the grapes
(with which on paper I am delighted) came to me safely & in due
time. I expected that the river would have broken up & navigation
commenced before this time when I should have been in town & would
have paid my subscription prior to Dr G. — as it is with you have
the kindness to hand him the slip of paper on the last page of
this letter? —

Do you receive the numbers of Hooker's "Journal of Botany" &
also of that French work the Archives de Botanique which you loaned
me a number of two of last season? When will your catalogue of
plants about N.Y. be out of press? Does Dr Gray spend the summer
season coming in the western part of this State? These are queries
which when you are so good as to write me again I should be much
gratified to hear answered.

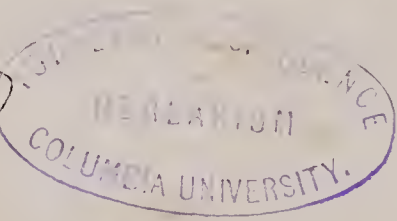
Pray have you received any late news of Mr Nuttall? We ought
to expect much from him though I am rather fearful that if his
route does not vary considerably from that of Mr S. Douglass he will
not find so rich a harvest as this latter gentleman. Is it true as
I have heard that Young Mr Mc Nab & his associate carried home
with them some new & very interesting sp of plants from the Northwest
of this.

We have but little appearance of Spring in this neighborhood as yet but I am looking forward to the bursting of the buds after our long & severe winter with all the ardor of a Botanist & a horticulturist. Allow me to ask have Mrs Torrey's (like many of those of our neighbors) house-plants suffered in our Lapland temperature? - if so some of my geraniums &c are budding so prettily that I shall be tempted to supply some of the empty places on her parlour stand.

Dr John Torrey. }

Very Sincerely

A. J. Downing



Re^d? L. And. } Botanic Garden & Nursery
Apr 14th } Kewbridge 13th April 1835.

My dear Sir

I embrace the first leisure moment in this
our very busy season to write you again. We seem to have
suffered less by the severing of the winter than most of the
other nurseries, & our constant demands for many kinds have
been so great as almost to exhaust them.

Please inform me about the 2^d part of Dr Gray's work —
— the price & how many specimens will it contain?
And has he still on hand any of the first vol. or no?

I should be much pleased to get a few seeds of Viscum
verticillatum — can you or Dr Gray inform me from whom
or where I can procure a few?

As we were sending plants by the Providence (steambond) this
evening I have put a small box on board containing a
few plants for Mrs Torrey nothing it is true very rare
but which I nevertheless hope she will accept. —

You write me in your last that you can send me one of
Short's catalogues — I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance
with him & I should be pleased if you would spare me
one of them. I am anxious to examine for a short time
some work on the mosses with plates. If you have
a copy of Hooker's Muscologia Britannica that you

could loan me for a short time I should feel exceedingly
obliged to you. You might send it at once to the steamer
Providence post. Of Warren I leave it with our agent

Mr Partridge 34 Cliff St. N.Y. —

It was reported in the public prints that a Mr Douglas,
a scientific Englishman — was killed by a wild bull in
the mountains of Hawaii — could this have been David
Douglas who was I believe botanizing in the Sandwich
Islands? — I sincerely hope that you will receive

some of Crooks seeds or living plants from Florida this
season for I have no doubt he can send some rare &
excellent things from that quarter. — I did hope to
be able to give you a call before this but our pressure

of business this spring has precluded the possibility of
that pleasure at present. Among other things which
I shall be gratified to see ^{in your house} the late ones of
Hookers Journ. of Bot. & Flor. Breeding which you
mention the receipt of

Dr. Torrey.

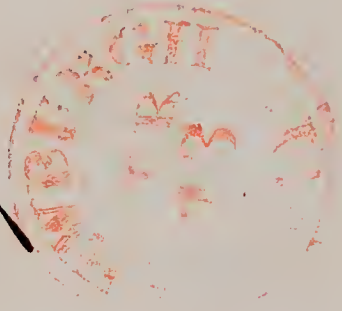
Most faithfully yours
A. L. Downing



P.S. I am sure that you will smile when you see a plant
of *Lamprocarpa purpurea* among the rest — Kimpoti — the thought
struck me that it would be quite a rarity to see it bloom in
town

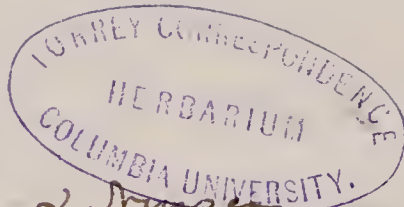
CE

J J
Dr. John Torrey
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
30. Mc Dougall St. New York.



Recd. Nov. 23rd.

and. Dec 1st.



B. Starnie Garden & Nursery
Newburg 21st Nov /86.

My dear Sir

I had hoped to have called upon you this morning but the violent storm prevented my leaving home. I return herewith Mr Reynolds ^{sample} with thanks — we shall expect much from Dr Gray if he goes out — & you may tell him that I shall expect a little for I suppose I ought to be anticipating the growing of Palms by the time he returns: I shall be glad to hear that the Sec. of the Stas. will send him abroad for books as ought by all means to be the case but fear Mr Dickinson's parsimony. The box of Empetrums arrived in excellent order to all appearance — I am ^{then} safely planted, some in pots subject to your drafts & some in the open ground. If it does not grow this time I will shut it up in hermetically sealed cases à la ward. I find a good many excellent things in the package of seeds from London which you have been so kind as to send me — and a great many quite unknown to me — where have they come from?

Accompanying you will receive the paper on Cycadum. It was written in haste & I was not surprised or repenting it to find abundance of errors. I have altered it. I hope for the better & said a few words about the history of C. rev as you desired. I have also alluded to Cerdas' discoveries in a note as you will see though I confess it is quite gratuitous on my part particularly as I have never seen either the original or Dr Gray's translation, he being out when I last called at the Lyceum.

— However I trust to your goodness to look over the note I right or re-write it as you see proper. You will greatly oblige me also by running your practised eye over the paper again & rectifying anything which may have escaped me if it is to go to Dilliman. I hope you ~~will~~ by all means have the drawings to accompany it. If you cannot get Lt. Bailey to execute the lithograph of the plant I think I might get Mr. Hoyle to do it. but I think one who knows something of botanical drawing ought to do the plate of the seed.

I hope you will be able to obtain some seed, if not the live plant of the Florida taxoid plant. Young trees could be sent best in the last of March as they would be certain to grow here at that time.

The Boston Hort. Mag. will be brought out with a new & improved appearance in Jan. next and I hope to see ^{it} well supported. I think you will make some exertion to reorganize your N. Y. Soc. I have just received the annales de la Société Royale d'Horticulture de Paris 9 vols up to the last July & they are highly interesting.

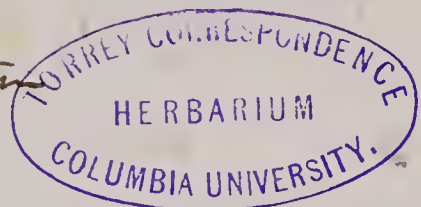
I should be glad to become a member of the Lyceum — is there any particular difficulty in so doing?

I shall be in N. York probably the first of next week and will give myself pleasure of calling on you. I suppose you meet the governor in Albany this week. I remain Dear Sir

With the utmost esteem

Yours.

A. J. Downing



Monday



Dr. Torrey
Prof. of Botany & Chemistry
30 McDougal St.

New York



Ans. Feb 12

Botanic Garden & Nursery
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Newburgh. N.Y. 28th Dec. /35

My dear Sir

I wrote you some time since but suppose either that my letter has not reached you or which is more probable that your numerous duties in the Laboratory etc. have not left upon your hands much leisure time.

The *Empetrum Conradii* of which you were so kind as to send me a number of roots, was when it reached Newburgh so much dried up that with the utmost care we could only make two pots of its survive. As it appears to be an evergreen, it is probable that like other individuals ^{of that nature} it could be transplanted with most success in the Spring.

If you can procure for me this coming spring a few seeds of the *Discum* which I believe grows plentifully in N. Jersey I shall be greatly indebted to you.

You will receive by my friend Mr. Monell (I hope in good order) a specimen of a species of *Euphorbia* known in our American exotic collections as *E. Poinsettii* after ~~that~~ ^{our} late Mexican minister of that name who is said to have introduced it into this country from Mexico. I believe it is not known in England by that name if it exists there at all - as London in criticising a notice of its flowering in this country supposes it to be synonymous with *E. splendens*. I was told also in Boston this year that such was believed to be the case there. But on turning to the

Botanicae Mag. (Hooker) Tab. 2902.) I find not only that E. Splendens is from Madagascar but that every part of the stem of the plant is clothed ~~with~~ exceedingly thickly with spines or thorns — & that it is splendid from the brilliant crimson of the flowers themselves instead of, as in the present instance (E. poinsettii) in its superb scarlet bracts which often in good specimens measure a foot across. I find that I have no description of such a sp. as E. poinsettii or any which appear to me to be synonymous to it. I must ask you therefore to examine the specimen and let me know the result.

Mr Knevels collection of Plants is looking very finely particularly his palms of which I think he has the richest collection in America both he & I had intended to send you a few plants but were caught by the early cold weather. You may expect to be remembered in the spring.

I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing Arnott & Wrights Indian Flora which you mention. I should be exceedingly obliged to you if you have any ^{late} pamphlets or periodicals (such as the companion to the Bot. Mag) relating to Botany or Hort: that you could send me to glance over by mail (I paying the postage each way) if you would trouble yourself to do so. the water navigation is so much closed that I can now get nothing in that manner. In my last letter I gave Dr Gray a check for 2 US\$ of his Grand &c which as my brother tells me is not yet drawn I repeat again. I take shame to myself that it was

^{not}
paid before.

If you receive any of the Florida Sarracenia I shall be happy to get a plant or two. Enclosed are a few fresh seeds of Gillia tricolor which you may plant in your garden next spring. The seed you sent me last spring & it is truly one of the most beautiful annuals I ever saw - flowering till severe frosts.

Is the ~~promised~~ introduction to Botany in press yet? Pray do you know any thing in cultivation of Poralea esculenta which Pursh states to be an staple article of diet (in its roots) among the western Indians? Is it found in the Northern States?

I remain Dear Sir

Very Sincerely

A. J. Downing

Dr. Torrey
Prof. of Botany & Chemistry
30. McQuay St.
New York

to spare over by mail (I paying the postage each way) if
you would trouble yourself to do so. the water navigation
is so much closed that I can now get nothing in that
manner. In my last letter I gave Dr Gray a check for
2 Vols of his Gram &c which as my brother tells me is not yet
drawn I repeat again. I take shame to myself that it was

Recd. Feb. 12/36.

And. Feb. 12

Botanic Garden & Nursery
Kew Aug. 9th/36.

My dear Sir

I sent you some ~~three~~ ^{or} four weeks since
by a friend who was going to the city a letter accompanied
with a specimen in flower of a plant generally known in
our Herbarium collections as *Euphorbia Poinsettii* ^{of} ~~which~~ ^{name}

I have reason to doubt the accuracy. If the specimen reached
you in a good state will you have the kindness to communicate
to me your opinion upon it? if not - please inform me & I will
endeavour to forward you another specimen before it goes out
of bloom.

I remain Dear Sir

Very sincerely yours.

A. J. Downing

Dr. Toney.



Recd. Apr. 1
Ans? 1

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

} Botanic Garden of Jersey
} Newburgh 28th March 1836

My dear Sir

Your letter and the accompanying pamphlets and periodicals, which you were so kind as to send me by Mr Leonard all reached me very safely and truly were very acceptable to me. Our ^{direct} communication with the City has been so long interrupted that our appetite for any news in the scientific way is quite keen I assure you. -- Spring -- I should say summer as yet shows no disposition to visit us speedily for the fields are yet covered with nearly a foot of snow and the Hudson is still closed -- it is probable that the transition of the seasons this year will be Canadian however and I think you may venture to come out in the country for a botanical ramble by the first of July at least! What a fine winter it has been for the

The Comp. to Bot. Mag. which you mention, I shall be much gratified to look over. I fully agree with your ideas of the beneficial effects which would result from the publication of such a periodical here. Why will you not undertake it. Can it be possible that we are yet too youthful to relish and support any thing of this sort? Will not some of our enterprising

publishers with your assistance put it to the test?

Mr. Seneval bids me convey his regards to you. His exotic collection is looking very splendidly. I assure you and he is studying the natural system with the advantage of the illustration afforded by tropical specimens that few of us can command. A very fine Japanese Sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*) about 40 years old and 4 or 5 ft high is throwing up a ~~large~~ lusty centre of inflorescence — probably for the first time in America. It may be in bloom in a fortnight or more and I hope you will be able to examine it. Mr. K. requests me to say that you must by no means fail to pay him a visit when you are in this neighborhood.

You mentioned in a letter in my possession dated about a year past that you knew a locality in N. Jersey where the Mistletoe (*Viscum*) grew in abundance. You will confer a very great favor if you have a correspondent in that neighborhood by procuring me as soon as convenient some seeds of it. Or if you are too full of engagements pray oblige me by telling me ^{of} some person in that neighborhood ^{to} whom I may write for them.

Will any one be sent out from England to supply Douglass's place? It is truly wonderful as you say that all our finest specimens of dried plants come to us by the way of Europe! It would be well for us and an honor to the nation if ~~some~~ some of the immense surplus monies in the treasury which are the

~~source~~ source of so much distress to our politicians could be applied to the fostering of science and literature.

Pray inform me whether I can procure a good microscope (for the better investigation of vegetable structure) in town - and the probable cost. I think I saw a very good instrument in your study last summer.

I see your name among the Committee who solicited Prof. Tillman to repeat his course of lectures in N. Y. Do you coincide with him in his theory?

I will take an early opportunity when the boats commence running to send a few plants to replenish Mrs Torrey's parlor stand, if they will be acceptable. The winter has been so severe that many house plants have ^{doubtless} perished - neither Mr Knevels or I however have lost any by the cold fortunately. I think the crop of peaches is however injured again.

Believe me dear Sir

Dr. Torrey.

Very truly Yrs

A. J. Downing.

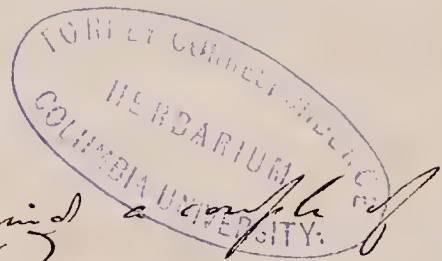
I am delighted with the admirable arrangement and perspicuity of description that I find in Dr Gray's Monograph of Rhynchospora and still more if I may judge from the specimen sent me with your Asperula. Would that we had a complete N. American flora executed in the same admirable manner. A. J. D.

Dr. John Torrey
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
30 Mc. Douglass St.

New York.

Recd May 11th

And. May 7th } Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newbury 2^d May 1836.



My dear Sir

Your note of the 23^d accompanying a couple of
vols of Rafinesque's was received by me the next day from the
U.S. Hotel. The "American Nations" with which I have been much entertained
and the 6th vol of the "Companion to B.M." which you were so kind as
to loan me return to you with my thanks in company with this
note. The "Atlantic Journal" I write with your permission retain yet
for a few days. The ^{genus} Euphorbia you say differs wonderfully in the
structure of the different sp. — so much so that it has often seemed
to me that the succulent leafless & almost leafless, ~~various~~ species
might with propriety be separated from the rest of the genus. I do
not think favourably however of Rafinesque's "Pleuradenia" as with the
exception of the singular glandular prosep in the flower *E. Poinsettii*
is very nearly related to *E. punicea*. I think in the appearance of
the plant it bears some strong resemblance to the next genus *Ped-*
clanthus. It is very strange if it has not reached England. If you
have the last year of Curtis, which I have not, please look it
over and see if it is not there figured under some other name.

You speak of having slightly examined the flower of the *Cycas*
and of its agreeing tolerably well with *C. circinalis* of Richard f. 5's
I suspect there is no great difference in the flower of *C. revoluta*
& *C. circinalis* but as you recollect ^{in Mr K's} there is a very decided
dissimilarity in the plants when growing. Mr Knevel's

C. circinalis is very fine & is the only one I have seen in this country while *C. revoluta* (if the plant commonly known as such is so) is common in all good collections. Mr. K. will be very glad to have an opportunity of looking over Richard.

The "world or instability" as shown up by the new post-graduate I shall be much pleased to look over when you can lay your hand upon it.

Has the second edition of Lindley's "Introduction" or this "key to Structural & Botany" reached New York. I wish to get a glimpse of the latter as it is said to contain the *Trifolium Mantarum* a little pamphlet ^{of his} which I was never able to get hold of?

Will you pardon me if I again remind you of the *Pisum* seeds which I spoke of in my last? I should be exceedingly gratified if you could put me in the way of getting some of them. I may be in town on business a few hours next week & if so I shall endeavour to call on you.

A friend of mine residing near Boston, ^{who is a very good botanist - except mycology} the Rev. J. R. Russell writes me to know if Dr. Gray or yourself will for a set of specimens of the different mofes of that neighborhood return him a "named one" even if it were only of the genera. Could Dr. Gray gain any thing in the way of eastern mofes by a little trouble in this ~~particular~~ method? How does the Dr. progress in his promised "Muscologia"?

By the Steamer Superior to night I send down a very few
plants to refresh Mrs P's parlor stand which I hope
may prove acceptable to her.

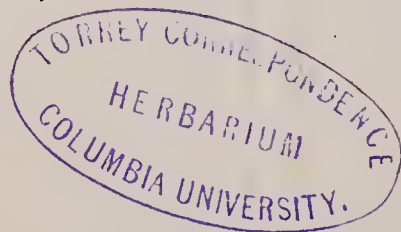
You will probably receive them
by the time this reaches you.

With the greatest respect

Dear Sir

Yours.

A. J. Downing



Dr. John Torrey
Professor of Botany & Chemistry
So. W. 8th St. N. Y.

New York

For the
The Museum



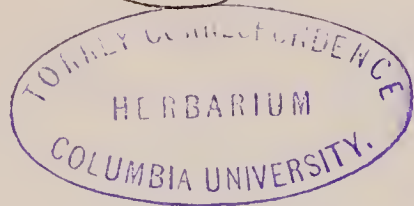
Manic Garden 2 Stumps
Newburgh 17th May 36.

My Dear Sir

What has become of the Box of Florida
Plants? You gave it in charge of the negro-man to
convey to the Highlander when I was at your house
but I suspect he did not reach that boat as I came
up in her myself & the box was not on board. I was
obliged to leave home the next day but left orders
to search for the box in all the subsequent
boats but it has not been found! This is probably
owing (if it has been sent) to its not having my
direction ^{which is my fault not yours} for it. But we have looked for it under
your direction which I believe was still remaining upon
it. I should be sorry to lose it — can you give me
any information respecting when it was sent & in what
boat

Yours in haste

A. J. Cronin



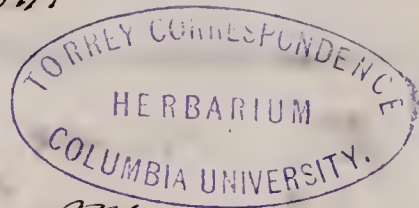


PAID

Dr. John L. Loney.
Prof. of Botany & Chemistry
30 McDougal St.
New York

And. July 25.

} Botanic Garden of Albany
Newburgh Line 1836.



My dear Sir

You will receive to morrow from me the two books of Rafinesque's which I should have returned before except for the loan as you desired of one of them to Mr. Knevel. In the basket containing them you will also find a few specimens of matured pericarps which I beg you to examine thoroughly.

The seeds which you were so kind as to send me a week or more ago were rec^d safely together with the ~~Hamburg~~ Bot. Soc. Catalogue for which please accept my thanks. The box of Florida Plants I have never seen or heard a word of since at your house! I regret this very much. The negro never could have put them on board of the N.B. boat.

The Cycas which you examined at Mr. K's when you was here is singularly enough going on towards maturation as regularly as if the male had bloomed beside her - The drupes(?) are now of the size of walnuts, and the globose head of metamorphosed leaves [still retaining the same brownish hue] is nearly one half larger than

when seen by you. The seeds cannot of course ^{ripen} so as to
~~reproduce again~~ germinate but is it not unique that
they should grow and ripen at all?

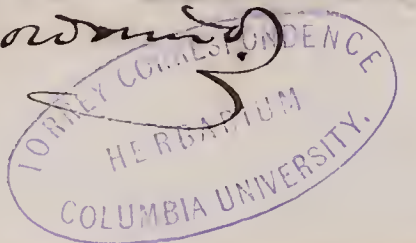
I shall be obliged to you if you will at some leisure
moment give me the recipe for coating plaster vases
so as to withstand the weather. The French seem
to understand this admirably ~~and~~ if we may judge from
the accounts in foreign mag. - but I see no recipe
for preparing the substance used.

I wish you would send me a copy of Dr Gray's
Introduction for which I will remit him. What
news can you tell me of the Geological Survey?
Have you a copy of ~~the~~ Annals of the Phil^a Acad. Sciences
for last year that you can loan me for a few days?

If you commence a botanical class and wish any
specimens of flowers for examination please inform
me and I shall be happy to send you anything
we have. The long continuance of misty rainy
weather though so very unpleasant has been
by no means unfavorable to our vegetation &
the garden is progressing very well
With respect

P.S. In the basket you will
find an *Asparagus* in fine bud
for Mrs T.D. Stand.

A. J. Downing

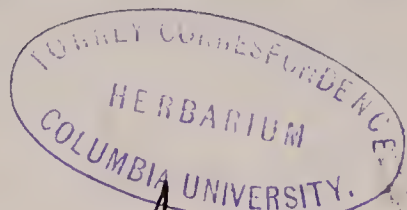




new.
Hain

Dr. John. Torrey
Professor of Botany & Chemistry
30. Mc Dougall St. New York





Botanic Garden & Nursery
Newburgh 27th Aug. 1856.

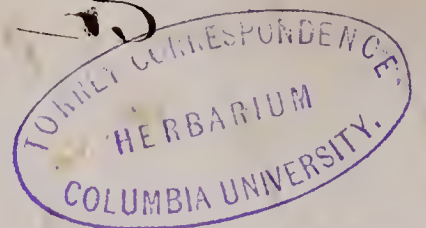
My dear Sir

On Monday last being in town I called
at your house, but found that you had not returned
from Princeton & that Dr Gray had gone out. —
~~Young Mr. Hogg~~ Not having seen or heard of you
for a long while I should have been glad of a
few moments conversation. Young Hogg whom I saw
afterwards, having informed me that you are coming
soon upon the Geolog. survey I flatter myself
that I may perhaps catch sight of you as you
pass up the river. You would add very much to
the obligations under which you have already laid
me if you would look over your Bot. library &
select any works that contain any information upon
the structure of Cycadaceae particularly of the structure
of the seed. Mr Knevel's *Cycas* is to all appearance
perfecting! its seeds. It is altogether a curious
plant & I should like to study the structure with
the present good opportunity, I will return any

Book or books in a couple of days. You have
not informed me whether you rec^d the basket
which I sent you last with the works of
Rapiney in it. I hope it arrived safely.
I hope you will not fail to call when you
come up in this neighborhood. Have you
the last Edition of Lindley's Introduction?
I was unable to find it in town.

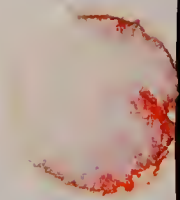
I remain Dr Sir Very cordially.

A. J. Downing





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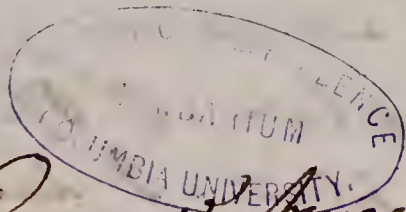


20

Dr. Torrey
Prof. of Botany & Chemistry
30 N. 5th St.
New York

Recd. of Am. D.

Oct 12th



Wm. G. L. Garrison
Newbury 11th Oct 1836

My dear Sir

I feel that I owe you an apology
for my delay in returning your Richard which accompanies
this letter with Brown's pamphlet. My illness a short
time since & in consequence of the absence of my brother
my constant engagements since have scarcely left me
a moments time to prepare the paper on the Qeada &
until it was written I desired to keep the works.
I do not know whether the paper (which you will find
in the vol. is drawn up in the form most proper &
desirable but I have only to say that I hope as you
promised that you will either cut down or insert,
or ^{amend} ~~it~~ it if it is at all suitable in any way you think
best. It is pretty long but there is so little generally known
of Qeada that I thought a general view of the order
would be interesting. I have not even time to ~~copy~~
it but hope you will be able to ^{read} ~~write~~ my ~~own~~ ^{hasty}
scribbling. You will see that my view of the coats of the
seeds is slightly different from Brown's & I hope will coin-
cide with your own. If my memory does not serve me right
respecting the American Lamia please rectify me - in the other of

the vernation is not at all gypate. You will see in the paper
reference to the plates. Plate 1st should as you desire be the
view of the whole plant. I had hoped to have had this prepared
by Mr Hoyle the artist who is often here but he is at present
gone to Washington to endeavor to get the appointment as draught
-man to the South-sea-expedition. I still hope to be able to
get him to do it on his return. Plate 2^d which contains drawings
& dissections I have nearly finished in a tolerable way myself
& will ^{send} bring it down to you in a few days. It will be
a great pity if we cannot get a handsome plate of the
whole plant.

If you have any nos of the Companion to the Bot. Mag. to
spare for a few days I shall be much gratified to
receive them. Has Lindley's new edition reached you?

I see in the papers notices every short time of meetings
to be of your Bot. Soc. I do really hope you will be
able to recapitulate it. The Pennsylvania Soc. has at
present 700 paying members & is very vigorous - the Boston
Soc. as you see by the Hort Journal is very flourishing.
I think you want a complete new organization & I have
no doubt your zeal will effect every thing necessary the coming
season.

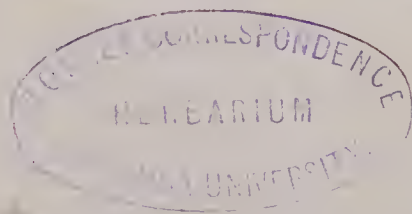
If there is any thing stated by Bees on Eschsch which
ought to be stated in the paper on Garden will you

have the goodness to condense it & work it in?

I beg you to accept the little basket of fruit which accompanies this. I shall be in town a short time next week & will call on you.

Most truly Yours

A. J. Downing

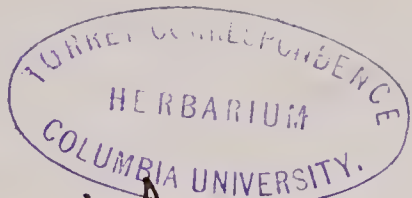


Ms. A. 9. 2. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

Dr. Torrey
Professor of Chemistry & Botany
30 Mc Dougall St New York.

Recd. Dec 3rd

and Dec 12th



Botanic Garden & Nursery
New York Dec 2d. 1836

My dear Sir

As I did not have the pleasure of seeing you when I called at your house on Monday last I must take the opportunity of writing to you on a little matter which I could only have mentioned then. The Boston Magazine will come out in a new form on January next with a handsome cover & an alteration in its title viz: "The Magazine of Horticulture, Botany &c &c." & considerable efforts will be made to increase its subscription list, which is now very respectable, in order to be able to afford plates of plants occasionally. I am naturally feeling interested in the success of such a periodical & being a friend of the conductors who are exceedingly clever in their profession I have taken the liberty at their solicitation to request that you would furnish a short article for the Jan no. Perhaps a page or two thrown together in the shape of botanical news or gossip relating to the affairs of the past year & prospect, par example, Nuttall's western tour, Drummond's death, the S. I. Expedition &c &c which will be highly interesting

to general readers I would take but a moment of your
valuable time. Prof. DeCandolle I perceive does not disdain
to be useful by his com's in the French Horticultural periodicals
I we should be permitted to hope for something from you as
the president of the N.Y. Hort Soc.

Perhaps if you are too much engaged Dr Gray will find a
few moments of time for the above. If attempted the communication
may be addressed to me I should reach me by the 12th. I
hope you will have the goodness to pardon this solicitation on
my part adding as I am aware it does to the many occupations
already pressing upon your hands.

I hope you received the paper on Gray & your pamphlet
safely. I remain Dear Sir

Most sincerely

Yours.

A. J. Downing

P.S. Does L^{ie} Bailey do the plates for Dr Gray's paper?



Recd. Jan. 5th

Potomac Garden & Nursery
New York Dec 26 1836
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM

My dear Sir

I received your package with your kind favours the latter note dated the 21st yesterday. The seeds from Georgia are very acceptable to me — I both Mr Knevel & myself have been amused & interested with the pamphlet of Rafinesque's strange wandering — he is undoubtedly the chief errant among naturalists.

I regret very much to hear of Mrs P's indisposition & it gives me sincere pleasure to forward to day a little bouquet for her which I hope will reach her in safety — if the Camellias do not lose their beauty before she sees them I am sure they will be quite a treat. Mr Knevel has been laid up this three week past with the inflammatory Rheumatism. I suppose you are aware he has purchased grounds for a country seat on the opposite shore of Mr Burns where he contemplates erecting a handsome residence with conservatories &c. I shall regret to lose him from this side but shall be heartily glad to see him fairly out of the unfortunately located place he now occupies in some situation where his collection of plants & taste for gardening may display themselves to some little advantage. *Euphorbia poinsettia*, *Poinsettia pul* Gr. is splendidly in bloom in his laboratory — I send you a little piece in the bouquet.

I regret that my article on *Cyanea* cannot be published in the Jan. no. of Tillman only because I should wish it to accompany Dr Gray — which I suppose will anticipate what little may be of

interest in mine. I hope as Dr Gray will of course have duplicates of Cerdas' plates & his paper that he will forward me one or two.

What scandalous delay in the appointments for the I. S. Expedition! My friend Mr Knudsen says that from a passage in Mr Sec. Dickerson's report he concludes the Secretary intends to wait for the "completion of the" "battles" in the frigates & then fit the members of the scientific corps "in" measuring their intellectual by their physical capacities. Alas! poor Yorick!

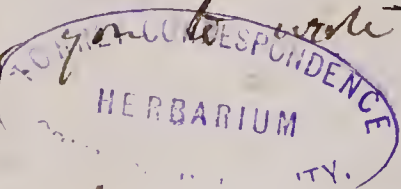
If you will ~~write~~ write & direct to me before the 15th Dec. the little article of Bot. news &c for the Hort. Mag. you will greatly oblige both myself & my friend the very ~~excellent~~ ^{excellent} editor of that periodical who certainly deserves aid in his endeavours to foster a spirit for Hort. &c in this country.

I receive every two or three weeks from the bookseller in town a package for the Public Library here of which I am one of the directors: the arrangements for the winter transportation are not yet made but when they are I will notify you of the place where any little pamphlets &c which you may be so kind as to send me may be deposited & whence they will reach me in safety.

A sulphuret of lead mine has been discovered the past season about 25 miles from this place on the Shawangunk range owned by gentlemen here - which promises to be very profitable. The ore yields about 80 per cent & 50 tons have already been mined. I will send you a good specimen for the Lyceum cabinet - if you wish. I beg you to write me when you have leisure.

Very sincerely ..

A. J. Downing



P. S. The above was written as you will see by the date
several days ago & the bouquet prepared. Unfortunately since
that very day the Steamers have not been able to get higher
up than West Point - & Mrs T's beautiful Camellias will have
to stay above the Highlands. I console myself with the
reflection that I shall yet have an opportunity to send
a bouquet before the winter is over. Mr Estey is so good
as to be the bearer of this



Dr. ⁱⁿ Torrey
30. M: Dugal St.
New York

Mr. Eatenley }

Recd. March 24th 1837
Ans. March 25

Dr Wrey

My dear Sir

Allow me the pleasure of
introducing my friend Mr C. M. Hovey of Boston,
the editor of the excellent "Magazine of Horticulture"
published in that place. He would like to take a
peek at your fine Herbarium and any attentions
you may have it in your power to show him will
oblige me.

Newburgh. }
12th March. }

Most truly Yours.

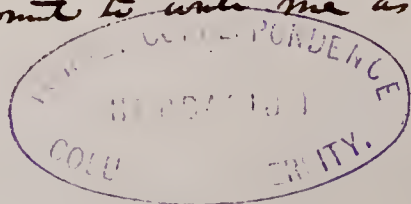
A. J. Downing.

P.S. I have not written you very lately, because I
knew you to be very deeply engaged. But I shall hope
to hear from you soon. My Lan. Bro. of Silliman is awaiting
me in town the river being yet closed: I am anxious to
read Dr Gray's article which I suppose it contains. Do
you know whether the drawings of Gray are to be engraved for
my article?

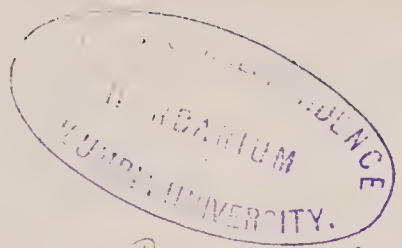
Tell Mrs. T. that her bouquet is not yet faded! but
shall make its appearance in the first bout.

What are you doing? I shall a moment to write me as
soon as possible.

A. J. D.







J. Blain. Garden & Nursery.
Newburgh Sept 16 1887

My dear Sir

I have not answered your interesting letter written some time since nor acknowledged the receipt of the interesting pamphlets accompanying it because I had hoped ere this to have seen you personally: on calling at your house in town some days ago you were away from home and since that I have been expecting to see you here almost daily.

I was much pleased with your account of your visit to the mts and hope you will be able to dispatch the collector as you propose to secure some living as well as dried plants. During your absence I had *Limnanthes Douglasii* very nicely in bloom upon my rock-work but since almost destroyed by the hot sun. The seeds as you will probably recollect I am indebted to you.

Pray tell me whether Mr Mather - the Geologist - of this district has passed through yet on his survey or whether we may yet expect to see him. He promised to call on me when

he came into this neighborhood.

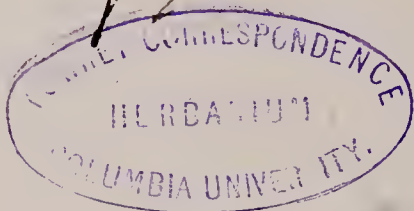
I shall be very glad to have a perfect copy of Mr Crooms paper when you can conveniently send it to me as well as your interesting account of new plants, which paper you promise me in your last note. Can you inform me who is the author of the papers on "American (Mexican) Antiquities" published lately in the Knickerbocker magazine. I suppose they emanate from ~~some~~ your Lyceum of Nat Hist.

Does the Horticultural Society get up nothing not even a Dahlia show this season? or do you consider the whole affair as laid up on the shelf till a more propitious age comes round? I am very glad to hear that Mr Gray's prospects of sailing are much increased. By the way you may tell Mr Ser that I am greatly obliged to him for his timely and very protracted call here when he visited New York. Five o'clock A.M. is rather too early to call allowing for the presumption that folks in the country do rise early. However I hope to see Mr Ser again before he sails. I presume you rec^d the basket of pericarps &c which I sent to your house the day I called. Please write if you do not come up and let me know what you are doing -

Very sincerely

Yours.

A. F. Downing





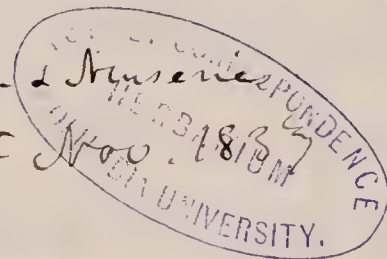
Dr. Hovey

Prof. J. Botany & Chemistry

To Messrs J. - New York

Recd. ~~Nov~~ 11th

Botanic Garden
Newburgh 9th Nov



My dear Sir

I take shame to myself that I have now two unanswered letters from you. Your kindness will I am sure find an apology for me when I beg leave to remind you that this is our very busiest season in the nurseries and that an unusually busy fall has crowded almost every thing but my constant occupations out of my hands.

Allow me an apology for not returning to your house the evening on which I had the pleasure of taking tea with you. I found that I had introduced myself into so pleasant a party in Mercer St. that it was impossible to leave before I thought you had retired. The next morning the unexpected arrival of a commission from the Public Library here to purchase 3 or 400 dollars worth of Books for the same unavoidably occupied the whole of my time so that I had no leisure to see you again as I ^{had} expected and intended to do.

The communication from the German on the forcing of Grapes is quite new to me and equally ^{curious} ~~new~~ indeed. I shall keep it up a little & send it as you suggest to the Boston Magazine. In Boston if it is not already known (which I much doubt) they will from their zeal in forcing soon give it a trial. Some of the Gentlemen there raise tons of the finest grapes under glass: and for the more

warm
in future times

northern latitude of Boston and lower temperature of that city it tends
far to surpass any other in the Union in that way, although as I
have recently heard N. Biddle Esq. has expended within a year or two past
upwards of \$20.000 in glass structures at Bristol N. J.

Pray tell me how your negotiations for my friend Baron Lederer's
collection of minerals have ended. I must confess I should feel some regret
to hear that so fine a collection should be borne away to such
a backwoods sort of a state as we feel Michigan yet to be. I
am surprised to hear from you how richly this university will be
endowed from the sale of lands and almost fear ~~it~~ will yet
rival or surpass the sister institutions in the East. The idea of establishing
a fine botanic Garden is so tempting that one could be induced to go almost
to the Rocky Mts to see it handsomely done. I think I will speak to
the future Mrs D to whom you allude about it next spring!

I am picking up some materials for a 12mo vol which (D. V.) I
hope to write next winter on the beaut^y utility & advantage of foreign
and indigenous forest trees & considered chiefly in relation to ~~the~~ landscape
Gardening and the improvement of Country Residences. There is a great
want of something in this way felt in this country and great groping
in the dark in the absence of it. The Americans are just beginning to find
out that trees were made for something but to be cut down! If you
see anything in the way of books calculated to assist me pray oblige

me by laying violent hands on it. I cannot find a copy of London's
Arboretum Britannicum in this country.

Poor - Poor me Croom! Who does not lament his dreadful fate?
Thus to be swept away amid the brightest prospects and most eager
hopes and with his whole family is really enough to make a man serious.
His intimate friend Mr Donaldson was here when the news arrived of
the loss of the *Home* and appeared to regret it most deeply.

I shall be down probably toward the last of the month and hope
it will not be too late then for a peep at the rare Books Dr Gray
has just rec^d from London. I am glad to hear you think that Dr
will go out in the *Frigate*. If they are as long in returning as is
going out then reports scientific & historical will be for the benefit
of the next generation.

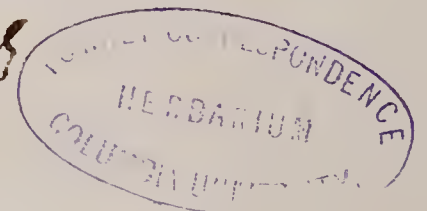
You did not lend me the 2^d part of Hooker's *Scores plantarum*.
I shall be very much pleased to see the newly rec^d - nos of his Bot-
miscellany or anything else which you may think worthy. Will you have
the goodness to remember some suitable time that I have an ambition to
become a member of your Lyceum. Will your Hort Society succeed
in making a new batch of officers this year or is it 'dead and gone'.
I shall be much pleased to hear from you again ^{soon} and remain

P.S. A little basket accompanies the
mail to convey to you Dr Danberr's discourse.
Of the other left literary contents speak not.

I am making extensive plantation of grapes & other fine fruits in a beautiful warm
valley about half way up the Fishkill m^t from whence I hope at some future time
to send you many a fine basket. Vale

Yours most sincerely

A. J. Downing



Dr. John Torrey
Professor of Botany & Chemistry

30 W. 2nd St.
N.Y.

New Bngl 29th June 1838

My dear Sir

I wrote you from Northampton Mass, about 12 days since enclosing the 'constitution' &c of our W. S. Society which you were to get thro' the press. I then intended to call & see you as I came thro' New York but as I was obliged to be here on Tuesday last I had necessarily to come directly thro' N. Y. without stopping - and was therefore prevented that pleasure.

I hope the little pamphlet containing the constitution &c is ready or nearly so: you know they are to be distributed in the different counties & we ought to do it soon in order to get an accession of members before the great exhibition in autumn.

I have recently had the honour of being elected a corresponding member of the Massachusetts W. S. Soc. The diploma which they have sent me is very pretty and with a variation in the vignette might serve as a model for ours. It is a lithograph & I think on consideration that would be at once the cheapest & best style for our diploma: - introducing as I suggested the view of the valley of the Hudson in the distance with a foreground of fields &

flowers. Will

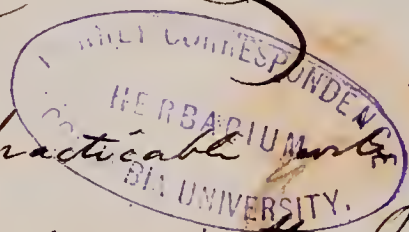
I received your apology for the 9th of June on my return. We were very sorry not to see you & will be extremely happy to receive a visit from you at any time. Will you not be in Fiddkille soon?

I send you a little basket of cherries with my regards to Mr. T. Let me hear from you soon & believe me

Very truly
Yours

A. C. Downing

P.S. I should like to be a member of your Lyceum of Nat History. If it is practicable would you propose me? What has Dr. McKay decided the Plum-knob insect to be?





Dr. Carey

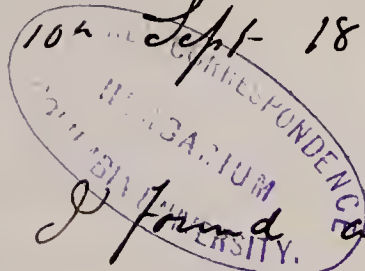
Professor of Chemistry & Botany

Corner of Prince & Mc Dougall Sts.

New York

Wm

Botanic Garden & Nurseries
NewBury 10th Sept 1838.

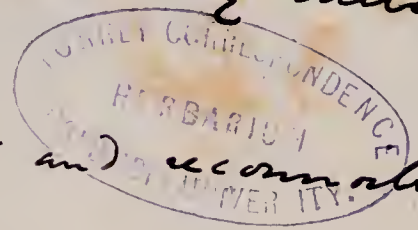


My dear Sir On my return home I found a letter awaiting me from Judge Buell which stated that he had advertised the exhibition in his Cultivator, the Albany Daily papers & it had been copied into the N.Y. daily Express. Coupling this with the fact of the interest felt in his quarter he advises ^{us} by all means to go on and make the best of it. So upon second consideration I have written the advertisement & think we had better push matters on as fast as possible. The Judge writes me that he can furnish from 30 to 40 varieties of Fruit! We can certainly muster as many more, Knaveels will send us down some of his fine plants - & we shall I think get a large collection from the various sections of the river exclusive of N.Y. - which I hope will do something for us.

Look over the advertisement and make such alterations as you think proper. You had probably advertised in 2 of the Dailies and as often as you think we can afford.

I believe I told you that I had written a letter to George Thorburn telling him to behave himself & receive the initiation fees for us. This was 10 days ago & I fancy he has taken my advice as ~~one or two~~ gentlemen have since told me that they called & paid him which he took without grumbling!

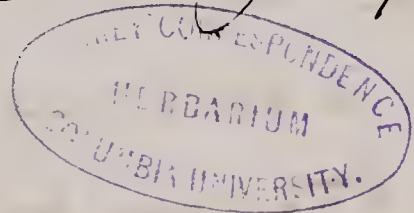
I shall probably come down on Monday next and recommend for the apportionment among you. Vale.



A. J. Downing



Botanic Garden & Nurseries
Newburg 11th May 1839



My dear Sir

Your ample package of Botanical journals
and pamphlets reached me this morning you left for which
many thanks. Some one had mentioned that you were to
leave N. York for a professorship at Princeton which I much
regretted to hear: but as you say nothing of it in your note
I ^{venture to} hope you will not find it to your advantage to leave New York.

Last evening I sent you down a small basket of flowers
hastily collected among them the Dble Cherry &c. I have 4 so-called
species? of *Calycanthus* here of which 3 being in flower I sent
you specimens. Pray let me know what you make of them. *Croonia*
pauciflora which you kindly sent me last summer in a pot is
growing nicely but shows no symptoms of inflorescence. To a casual
observer it looks not unlike our little dwarf corn in foliage now.
I shall never forgive you till you procure me some good seeds
of the new evergreen tree *Tonera*. I am expecting every day from
England a first-rate head gardener I can promise to have
every thing new of this kind safely managed.

I am very glad to hear of Dr Gray's successful & pleasant tour.
If the master of Botany Robert Brown should come out so

give us a sight of him here in the Highlands. I think you will have to take him to the summit of the Catskills!

Dr Beck & Boston are busy with our rocks & minerals. The ^{latter} ~~former~~ told me that you expect to explore the drowned lands in this country soon and said that Dr Mc Murm would gladly be your companion and guide.

I am as you may suppose very busily engaged this season between building my new house & superintending my gardens but shall be glad to hear from or see you as often as possible. It would give me pleasure to send you a basket of flowers weekly could you send on board the boat for them on a certain day.

Apropos of building: When you write Dr Gray will you bear me in mind and beg him to look for plaster busts of Linnaeus, Luffien Decandolle &c. I want either 2 or 4 to ornament the large square hall in my house. I do not mean to trouble the Dr to purchase & send them out for me as I suppose he has commissions enough already but only to send me word where they can be procured so that I can order them. A minute of this kind will much oblige me. The portrait of Mr Nuttall that Dr Mead once proposed I have now in good preservation. What was the name of his nephew who painted it?

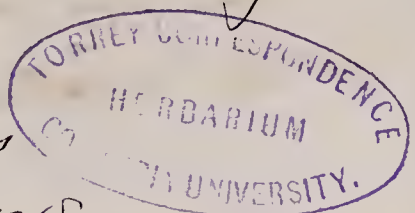
I hope you will notice *Euphrasia alpinum* a pretty little plant with rich brown flowers. It grows well in the garden soil contrary to my expectations.

Hoping to see or hear from you soon I am

Sincerely yours

A. J. Downing

P.S. I believe the Hort. Association are to have an exhibition in Albany in May. What has become of Hogg and his garden.



Botanic Garden & Museum
New Brunswick July 1839
HERBARIUM
UNIVERSITY.

My dear Sir

I received with great pleasure
the letter from Col Votter & his work by
the last mail box for which accept my
sincere thanks. I have not the least doubt
of the truth of his observation respecting the
use of ^{our} hydraulic cements for brick stucco.

In to day's box (about last Wednesday) I found
a branch of the Pear tree as attacked by
that most destructive & fatal disease the
fire blight - instantaneous in its operation &
which has so long baffled all horticultural
skill. I believe it to be the ^{effect of the} attack of some
minute insect: and beg you will carefully
examine the branch in every part with the microscope
to see if it can be detected. A knowledge of
the cause & a remedy for the evil would be
of vast benefit to all cultivators.

I have told the carrier of the box when to leave
it in the village near the boat so that I can
recover it without trouble.

I have never heard of the cabbage for oil.
but am very glad to get seeds which I will

both distributed & try myself next season.

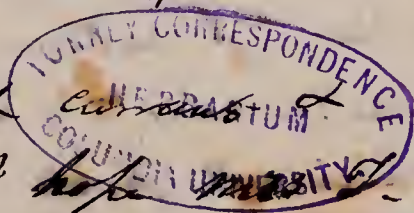
I lately received from Philadelphia some plants of our splendid aquatic Nelumbium luteum which I have so long endeavored to get. They are planted in my pond where I hope they will flourish.

I shall probably make a short visit to Philadelphia for a week or two. Will you give me a note to Mr Nuttall or some other gentleman who will show me to the Academy of Sciences there?

With sincere regards.

A. J. Downing

I send a few white Dutch Cornus & Carolina Cherry Plum which I hope you will be able to find the material properties of.



both distributed & try myself next season.

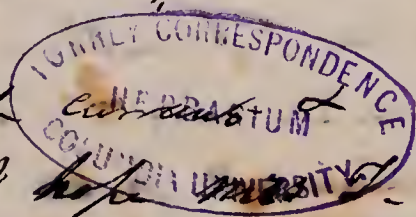
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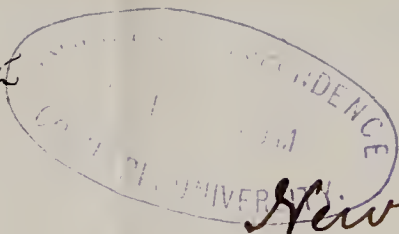
A. J. Downing

I send a few white Dutch ^{of} ~~early~~ Cherry Plums which I hope ~~you~~ will be able to find the maternal properties of.



Joseph Linn

Rec^d Aug 1. 20th



Newbury 16th Aug 1861

My dear Sir

I am very greatly obliged to Dr Gray and yourself for the roots from North Carolina which we have placed in such a situation as we think will enable us to afford you flowers another season for your herbaria.

All friend of mine now at Newbury. Major Bellnap who commands in Florida, thinks he can procure me a parcel of seeds and plants of the Torreya and as he has the greatest possible facilities for the purpose I have strong hopes of getting a supply. Has Mr Cary tested their hardiness in our climate? This is an important question: and I am strongly inclined to think it will prove a handy tree here.

I supposed you were at Princeton yet as I have enquired of Mr Wiley whenever in town without hearing of you. I return with this the Botanical journals which you were so kind as to loan me & which should have been sent sooner had I known of your family being at home.

I am sorry to say that my symnoda has not afforded me any specimens this year - nor has the Yuplank tree, a much larger one, borne any.

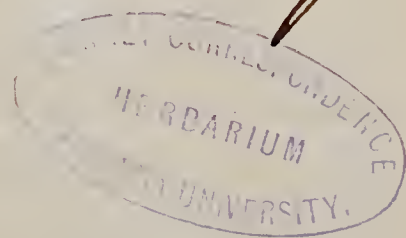
There are some very old trees on the Rosack estate at
Hyde Park which fruit abundantly every year
and from which I have no doubt specimens of
the fruit may be obtained. I may visit them
in Sept: and will bring some away for you
if you wish it.

You have not paid us a visit yet this season!
and we shall expect to see you the first leisure
day. In the little basket accompanying you will find
a few flowers for Mrs. T.'s vase:—among them
are one or two flowers of the Dahlia in their normal
state^{to} which I beg you to give a proper degree
of admiration — I have never seen so fine
an example before in the Dahlia. With kind remembrances
to your family

Believe me

Very cordially
Yours

A. J. Downing



Newbury 8th Oct 1862

My dear Dr Torrey

Absence from home has prevented my giving an earlier reply to the letter I had the pleasure of receiving from you by Mr Walstead. I have inquired my frequently for you in New York this summer, in the hope of getting a sight of you again, but I have not had that good fortune. I have to regret my mind that you have gone from New York as well. you has departed almost all my botanical acquaintance there — and Dr Gray too! what a scientific desert! I passed your McDougal Street house when I have passed so many pleasant hours I had almost a mind to go in & see what sort of people lived in it — whether the herbarium was filled with sage and lavender!

Your last had me to hope that we might have the pleasure of seeing you here this fall. Cannot you steal away with Mrs T. for a few days in this delightful autumn weather? the mountains in their autumn living are truly magnificent now seen through the softening, hazy atmosphere.

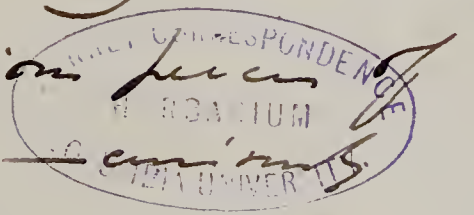
Will it serve the end of the Union from Mr. Lang to which you refer.

I hope Dr Gray will endeavour to raise up a real
Botanic Garden at Cambridge worthy of the University:
The bare possession of such a garden well directed
would give a character to the institution & reflect
great credit on him. I have understood that
there is no want of funds.

I beg you to let me know what you are
doing & when you expect to return to New York
for the winter — how you like Princeton — and
whether you still think of building yourself a
home there. At the very first opportunity I shall
certainly come to see you there.

My little work on "Cottage Residences" has succeeded
beyond my expectations, and although it is chiefly
of a suggestive character I trust it may do some
little towards awaking a better taste in our
rural homes. I have really had quite a business "on
the European plan" and at nearly the European price this
summer in professional landscape gardening.

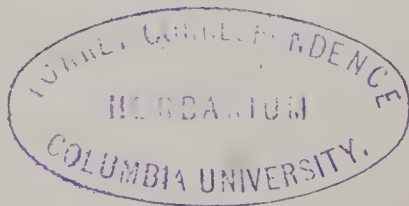
I should like to show you some curious
antiquities which I have in my house —
carved chairs 200 years old — ancient armor from
England etc. Can't I tempt you here for a few
days. Mrs Downing joins me in the kindest assurances of
regard to Mr Torrey & yourself and I am ever Truly Yours
H. A. Downing



Newbury 3^d Dec 1862

Dr Torrey

My dear Sir



Mr Walstead has kindly
offered to be the bearer of a few words which I
am very glad to send you by so good an opportunity.

I am truly sorry that, now you are settled at
Princeton, we see so little of each other and I
beg to bespeak in advance a visit from yourself
and Mrs Torrey the first leisure time you have
next summer or autumn. We shall be glad to
have a quiet visit from you at any time when
you could most enjoy it. — only letting us know
a few days in advance, that we / who are also
sometimes birds of passage / may be at home to receive
you.

When you can spare a few moments I would be
glad to have a word from you by mail saying
(if you know) precisely whereabouts in Florida the
Torrey can be obtained. I want my much

to get a few more nice young plants - and Col
Belknap an especial friend of mine who has
command of a regiment - then will make every
effort to procure them if I can give him
precise information as to the locality.

Mr London in a late letter says that there is
still much dispute in England respecting the species
of our American Elm: and he is very anxious that
I should next fall send him a plant of each
"with the names which will be given them by Drs Torrey
& Gray: for notwithstanding that these gentlemen sent
me specimens, and that I have examined what are
called American Elms in both British & French gardens,
I am by no means satisfied that I am right respecting
them. Therefore do not send me any until you can send
all the ~~the~~ kinds correctly named by Drs T. & G."

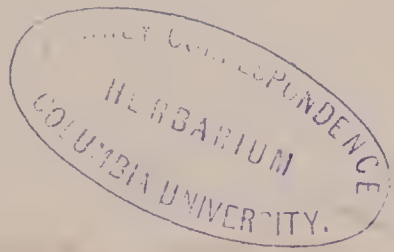
Professor Lindley seems engaged heart & soul in the
"Gardener's Chronicle" the best of the English gardening newspapers.
He edits it with ability but not with the best taste as it seems
to me.

Mr Downing joins me in the kindest assurances of
regard to Mrs Torrey & your daughter & I remain
With much esteem Yours

A. S. Downing



Highland Gardens
Newbury N. Y. Jan 26: 1877.



My dear Sir

I hope this favour which I am about to ask of you will not be too heavy a tax for I sit down with a sort of old-new pleasure ~~with~~ ^{from} the feeling that our lines cross each other again, as they used to do so often many years ago.

You know my hobby is horticulture, and I am just now interested in the pear tree. This tree ^{as is well known} does not usually thrive & bear fine fruit easily near the sea coast - but I have lately met with an instance, that puzzles me, of extraordinary vigour & productivity in the gardens at Hyamouth, Mass: quite on the sea & with no apparent reason for the exception.

I suspect though however that there is something in the soil which will account for it. & I have accordingly procured some which I send you herewith. Now the favour I desire to ask to day is that if you

have been you will make a rough analysis
of this soil for me. I do not care for nicety
I would only like to know whether it con-
tains more or less of any one of the common
components than is usual in good soils.

I have a strong notion now that one
of the oxides of iron is very beneficial to
the pear. Perhaps this soil - which seems
much a decayed rock or sand may contain
it.

If this is a troublesome matter or
costs you too much time pray give it the
go-by without the least hesitation. But
I will be glad to reciprocate in any way
you may point out if it comes within
the limits of your convenience.

I am within a hairs breadth of
an Irishman would say of being at Prince-
ton but full of the kind invitation
of your friend Mr. Field. But just as
I was about starting I was forced to

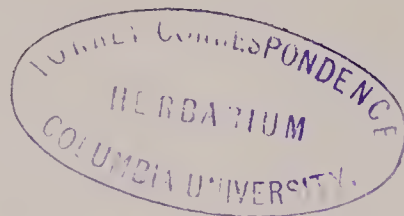
go to Boston on some business & had
to forego the pleasure.

I wish you would say to Mr. Field if
you see him, with my regards, that if
he has specimens of that pet apple
of his the "Mowmouthe pippin" which
is unknown to me I would be greatly
obliged for a sight of one or two of
them with some account from him of
its history.

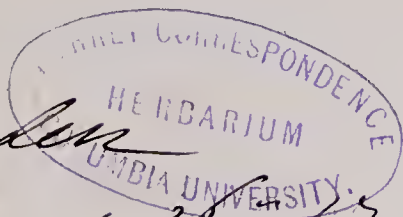
With sincere regards
Yours.

To:
Dr. Torrey

A. S. Downing



A. J. Downey



Highland Garden
Newbury Mass 18-47
My dear Sir

Thanks for your
kind letter. I shall
be most heartily glad
if you move back to
New York, for Princeton
is the Southern Antarctic
to me.

I am really much obli-
ged for your attention in
the matter of the analysis
of soil. All that I am
interested in knowing is
the per-centage of oxide

of iron in it, and if you
can tell me that point
in the course of ten days
I shall be much grati-
fied.

I do not know if you
see my Horticultural
Journal. I send you a
copy of the last no by
this mail. We print
3000 & it is increasing
every day & seems to
be doing much good
in exactly the right quan-
-ty. As I never see
the proofs there are

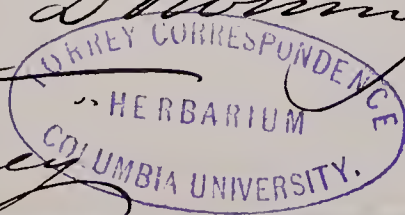
Sometimes queer blunders
in the text which you
must pardon. If you
care to see it I will
send you the succeeding
nos.

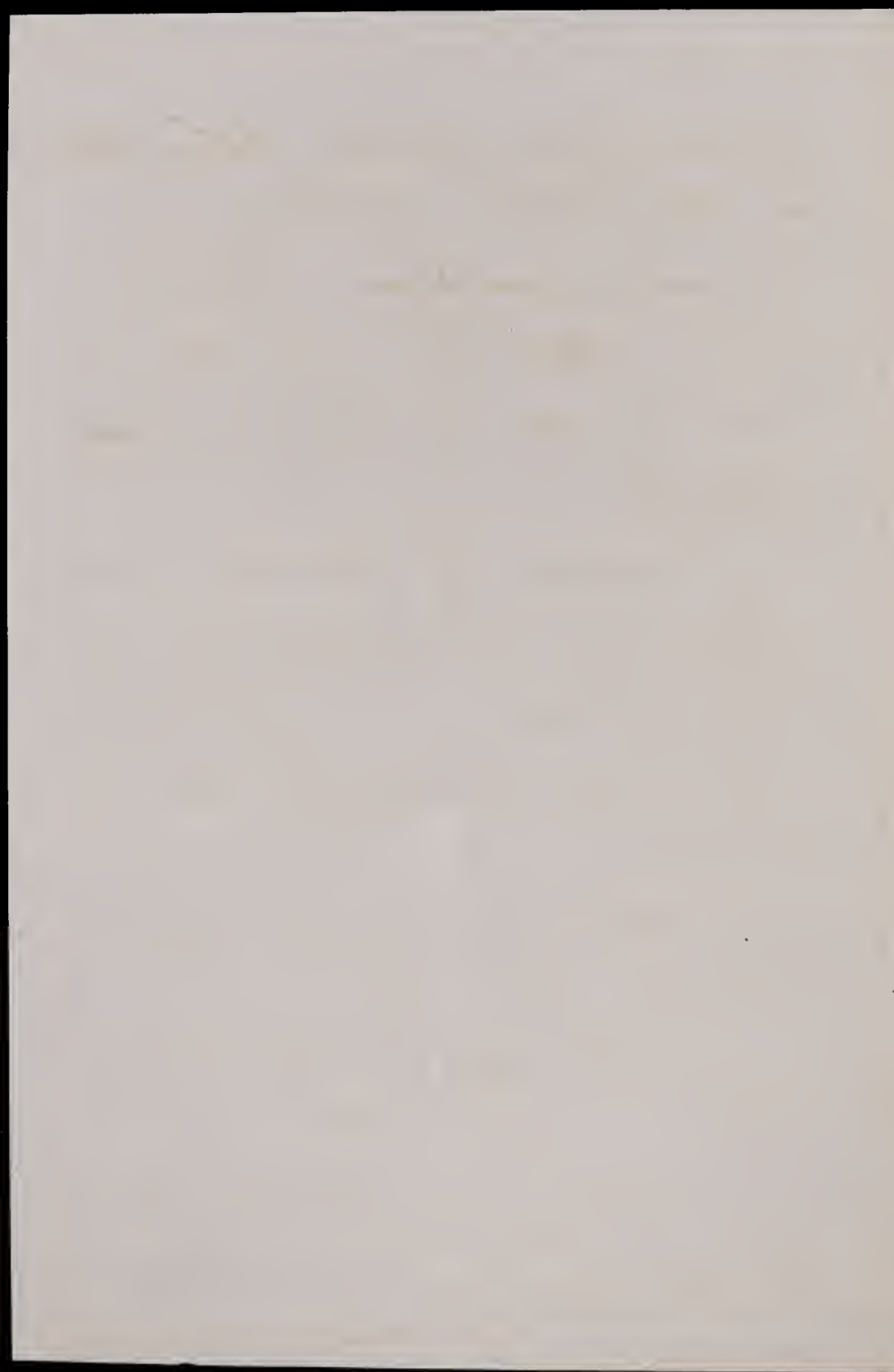
I mean to notice your
Flora, as it deserves, in
this Journal - which
will help its sale as the
review goes at once to
all the gardening readers
in the Country.

With much Esteem
Yours.

H. J. Downing

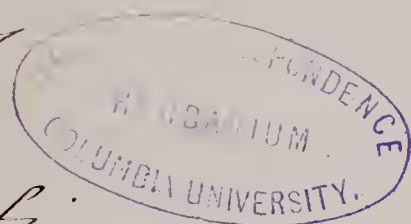
To Dr. Torrey





Highland Gardens

Newburgh April 18 1867.



My dear Sir

I have been absent from home for two or three days or I would have replied to your kind letter at once.

I enclose you the little remaining portion of the soil. If you can get at the percentage of oxide of iron without much trouble I shall be really obliged ^{to you for the information} ~~to receive it~~.

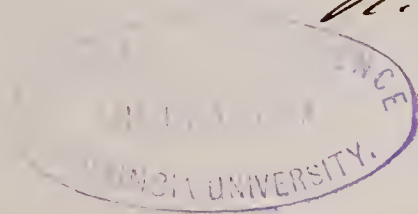
Have you ever heard of the ^{hardship of the} *Torreya taxifolia* here at the north. I mean to try my largest specimen (the one you gave me) out of doors next winter. I find that it is quite easily propagated from cuttings. I had left some young plants out in small pots till the ground was very severe & frozen in 1865 & they did not appear to suffer by it.

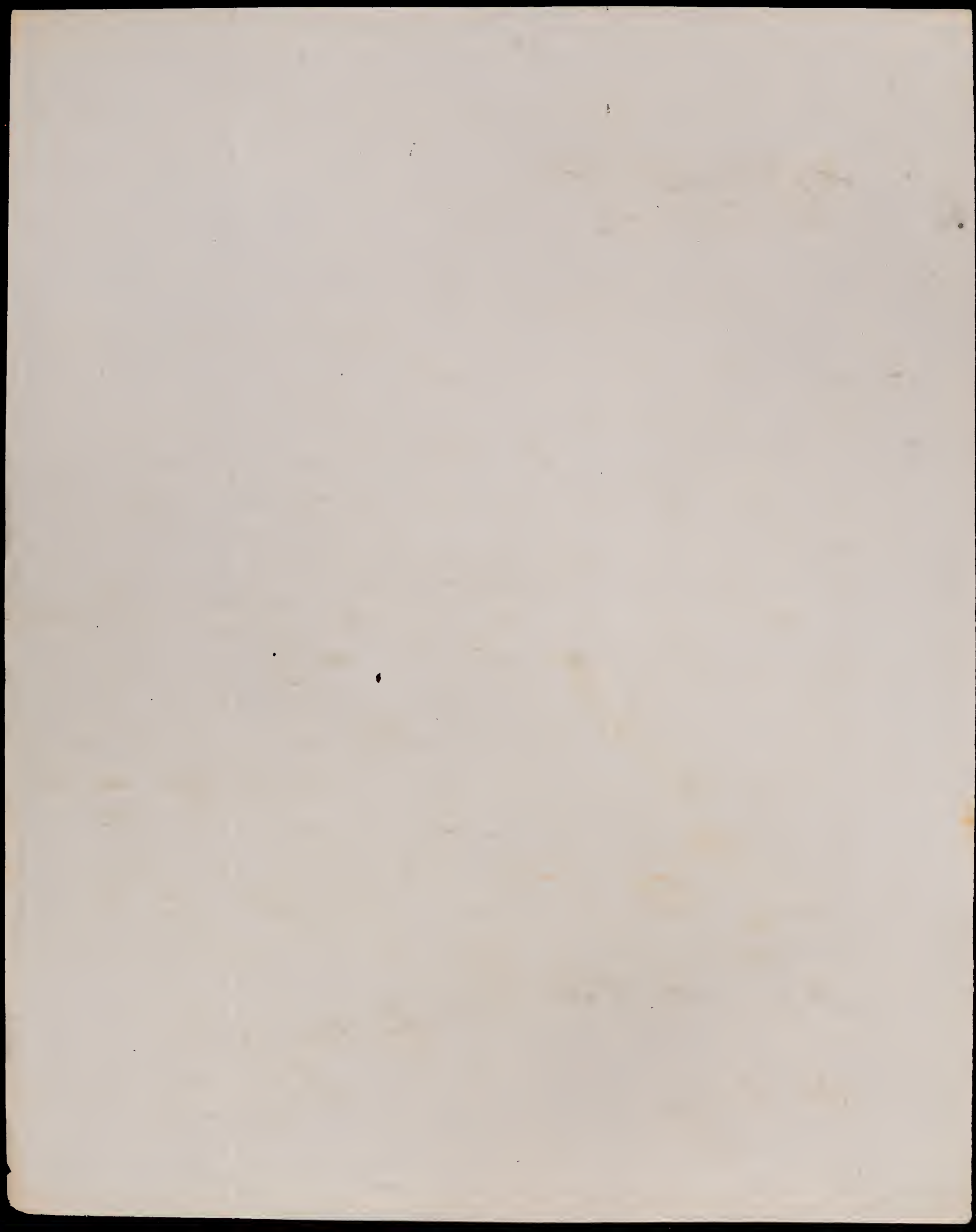
Mrs. Downing begs to be kindly remembered to yourself & Mrs. Torrey.

Very sincerely Yours

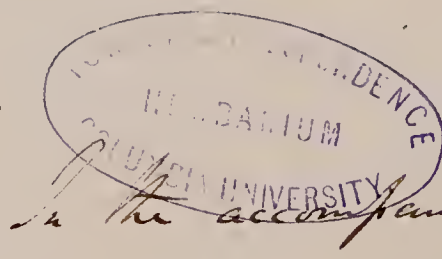
Dr. Torrey.

M. S. Downing





My dear Sir



In the accompanying basket (which please examine) you will find a couple of drawings of the Cypripedium. The drawing of the plant, which I think well done, is executed by Mr Hoyle the artist & is if you think it worth while, ready for the engraver's hands. The other is a sketch roughly done by myself of the parts of the seeds &c which, if you can get copied in a better manner by some botanical draftsman it will be well to do so in case you wish to use it. I send a few of the seeds also for your examination - I find they vary very much as they grow older.

Cannot I add to or revise the paper in some way as it was very hastily written? I send down the no. of Hooker which has the fig & des. of C. rev in order that you may see how incomplete it is.

If you have any thing for me to look over in the scientific way I shall be most happy to see it for a day or two. I did not have the pleasure of seeing Dr Gray when I was in town. Pray write me something about the S. I. Expedition.

What has Mr Stutall brought home in plants or news?

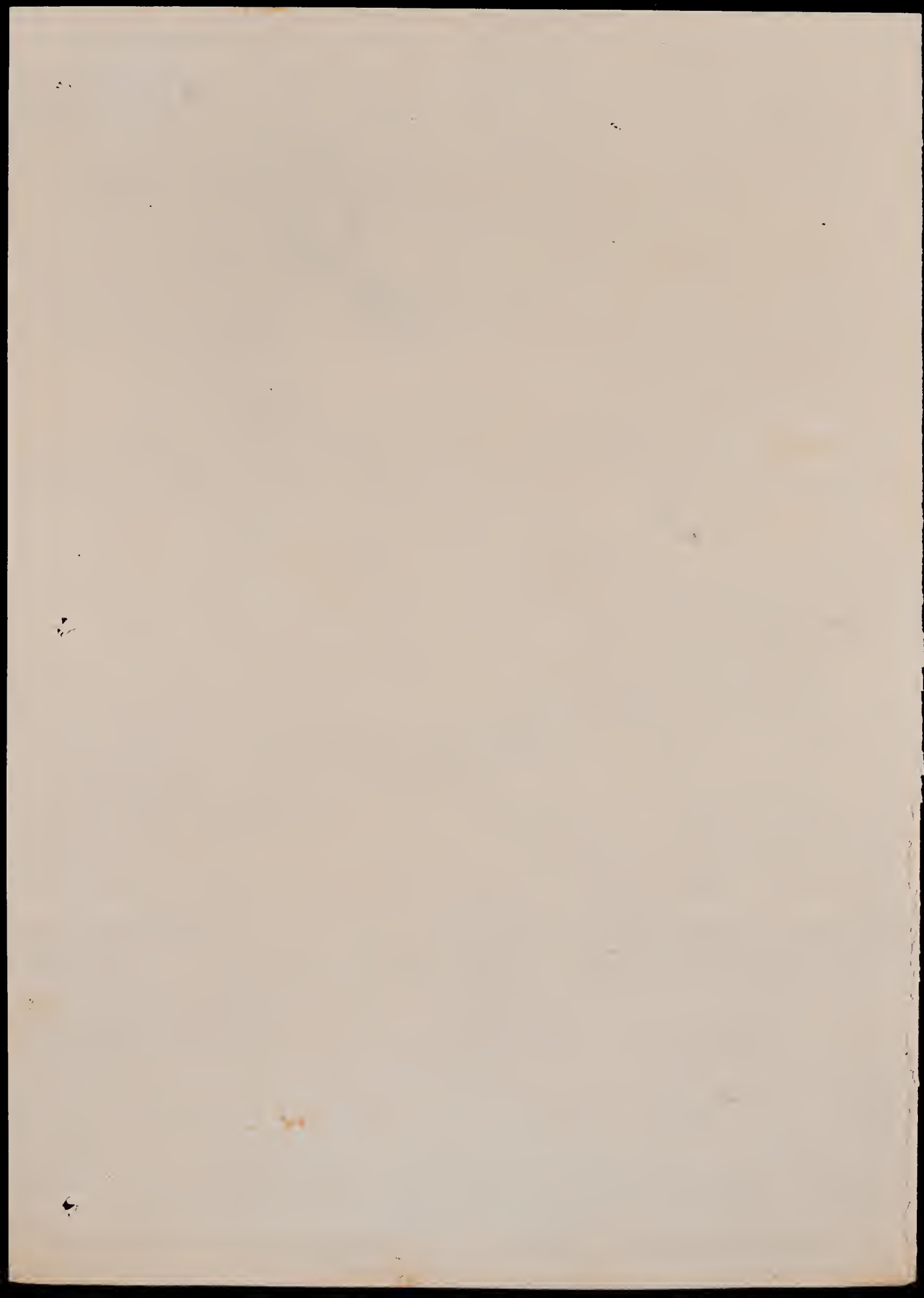
Botanist Garden & Sturton

I have Sincerely yours

27th Oct.

N.B. Please insert the embryo from Richard in 212^d fig 4 of the Aracnopsis

A. J. Downing



184-
(18362)
Newburgh Thursday afternoon

My dear Sir

The Madison (our regular mail boat) went off at an earlier hour than usual yesterday which prevented me from sending the box as I wished to do.

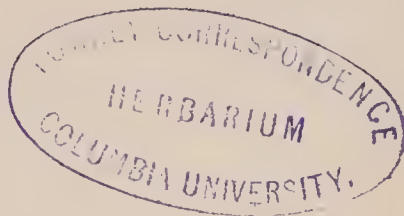
I have looked around the garden for another specimen of the Pear blight unsuccessfully to day but will be able to send you a fresh specimen soon without doubt - as the attacks are always prevalent during hot-weather.

I lost the key of our padlock so that I have substituted another & accordingly send the key enclosed. My visit to Phil^a is postponed until September when I will gladly avail myself of the introductory notes you kindly offer.

Our next hort. Exhib. is to be at Vibber's garden on the 12th - I will send you one of the circulars in a day or two. I have much more to say but it is near 5 o'clock and the boat waits. Kindest Regards to Mrs T - let me see you when you come up the river again.

Yours very truly

A. S. D.



Handwritten title at the top of the page.

Handwritten text in the upper right corner.

Main body of handwritten text, consisting of several paragraphs. The script is cursive and somewhat faded. The text appears to be a letter or a formal document, with some lines starting with capital letters. There are some ink blots and stains throughout the text.